

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-5 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new claims 6-11 as follows:

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-5. (Canceled)

6. (New) A support core ribbon for a cold-shrink tube, the cold-shrink tube including an elastomeric tube and a tubular support core deposited in the elastomeric tube for supporting the elastomeric tube, the tubular support core formed by the support core ribbon being wound helically, the support core ribbon comprising:

a continual ribbon being a flat body having:

- a) a first edge having a first straight groove and a first projecting portion located on a top surface of the continual ribbon;
- b) a second edge connected to the first edge and having a second straight groove and a second projecting portion located on a bottom surface of the continual ribbon, the first edge is connected to the second edge by inserting the first projecting portion into the second straight groove and the second projecting portion into the first straight groove;
- c) at least one groove located between the first and the second edges; and
- d) a plurality of through holes spaced apart an equal distance along a length of the at least one groove.

7. (New) The support core ribbon according to claim 6, wherein the at least one groove is a single V-shaped groove.

8. (New) The support core ribbon according to claim 6, wherein the at least one groove includes two V-shaped grooves, a first groove of the two V-shaped

grooves is located on the top surface of the continual ribbon; a second groove of the two V-shaped grooves is located on the bottom surface of the continual ribbon aligning with the first groove.

9. (New) The tubular support core according to claim 6, wherein the first edge and the second edge fixed together by ultrasonically welding.

10. (New) The support core ribbon according to claim 6, wherein the plurality of through holes are a plurality of square holes extending through the flat body.

11. (New) The support core ribbon according to claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of square holes having two opposing corners aligning with the bottom of the at least one groove.